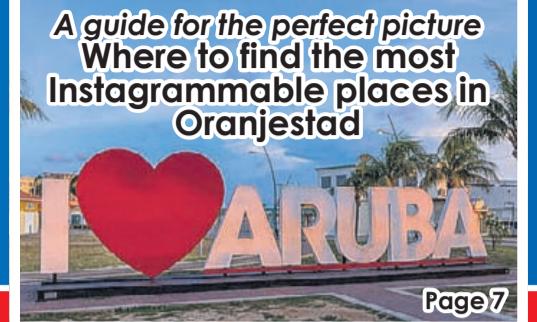


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## Secret Service director steps down after assassination attempt against ex-President Trump at rally

By COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The director of the Secret Service resigned Tuesday in the aftermath of the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump that unleashed an outcry about how the agency failed in its core mission to protect current and former presidents.

Kimberly Cheatle, who had served as Secret Service director since August 2022, faced growing calls to resign and several investigations into how a gunman was able to get so close to the Republican presidential nominee at an outdoor campaign rally in Pennsylvania.

Continued on Page 2



Kimberly Cheatle, Director, U.S. Secret Service, departs after testifying during a House Committee on Oversight and Accountability hearing on Oversight of the U.S. Secret Service and the Attempted Assassination of President Donald J. Trump, on Capitol Hill, Monday, July 22, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press



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## Secret Service director steps down after assassination attempt against ex-President Trump at rally

Continued from Front

"I take full responsibility for the security lapse," she said in an email to staff obtained by The Associated Press. "In light of recent events, it is with a heavy heart that I have made the difficult decision to step down as your director."

Cheatle's departure was unlikely to end the scrutiny of the long-troubled agency after the failures of July 13, and it comes at a critical juncture ahead of the Democratic National Convention and a busy presidential campaign season. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have promised more investigations. An inspector general probe and an independent, bipartisan effort launched at President Joe Biden's behest will keep the agency in the spotlight.

Cheatle's resignation came a day after she appeared before a congressional committee and was berated for hours by both Democrats and Republicans for the security failures. She called the attempt on Trump's life the Secret Service's "most significant operational failure" in decades, but she angered lawmakers by failing to answer specific questions about the investigation.

Biden said in a statement that "what happened that day can never happen again," and he planned to appoint a new director soon, but he did not discuss a timeline.

The president and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas thanked Cheatle for her service. Mayorkas appointed Deputy Director Ronald Rowe as acting director. He has worked for the agency for



**Kimberly Cheatle, Director, U.S. Secret Service, testifies during a House Committee on Oversight and Accountability hearing on Oversight of the U.S. Secret Service and the Attempted Assassination of President Donald J. Trump, on Capitol Hill, Monday, July 22, 2024, in Washington.**

Associated Press

23 years.

"At this moment in time, we must remain focused," Rowe said in a note to staff obtained by AP. "We will restore the faith and confidence of the American public and the people we are entrusted to protect." Congressional questioning At the hearing Monday, Cheatle remained defiant that she was the "right person" to lead the Secret Service, even as she said she took responsibility for the failures. When Republican Rep. Nancy Mace suggested Cheatle begin drafting her resignation letter from the hearing room, Cheatle responded, "No, thank you."

The 20-year-old shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, was able to get within 135 meters (157 yards) of the stage where the former president was speaking when he opened fire. That's despite a threat on Trump's life from Iran that led to additional security for the former president in the days before the rally.

Cheatle acknowledged Monday that the Secret Service was told about a

suspicious person two to five times before the rally shooting. She also revealed that the roof from which Crooks fired had been identified as a potential vulnerability days earlier. But she failed to answer many questions about what happened, including why there were no agents on the roof.

A bloodied Trump was quickly escorted off the stage by Secret Service agents, and agency snipers killed the shooter. Trump said part of his right ear was pierced in the shooting. One rallygoer was killed, and two others were critically wounded.

Details continue to emerge about signs of trouble that day and the roles of the Secret Service and local authorities. The agency routinely relies on local law enforcement to secure the perimeter of events. Former top Secret Service agents said the gunman should never have been allowed to gain access to the roof.

After Cheatle's resignation, Trump posted on his social media network: "The Biden/Harris Administration did not properly protect me,

and I was forced to take a bullet for Democracy. IT WAS MY GREAT HONOR TO DO SO!"

The House Homeland Security Committee had asked Cheatle to testify Tuesday for another hearing on the assassination attempt, but lawmakers said she refused. Cheatle's name was on a card on a table in front of an empty chair during the hearing, which began shortly before her decision to step down became public.

**Investigating an ever-growing number of threats**  
The Secret Service is a part of the Department of Homeland Security, which includes immigration, transportation security and the Coast Guard. The department was formed after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

A few years ago, there was a movement to shift the agency back to the Treasury Department, where it was housed before Sept. 11, particularly because Homeland Security's intense focus on immigration added to the growing divide between what the Secret Service sees as its dual missions — protecting the president and investigating financial crime — and the mission of its parent department. But that movement stalled.

Roughly half of the Secret Service's \$3 billion budget is spent on protective services. It also has a robust cybercrime division, state-of-the-art forensic labs and a threat-assessment center that studies how to mitigate and train against threats.

With a workforce of 7,800 special agents, uniformed officers and other staff, the Secret Service has investigated an ever-increasing

number of threats against the president and other officials under its protection. It has also managed a growing number of high-profile government figures asking for support. Staffing has not kept pace with the workload increase. Around Sept. 11 there were about 15 full-time protectees. That number has now more than doubled.

Trump is the first modern ex-president to seek another term, and because of his high visibility, his protective detail has always been larger than some others. That protective bubble got tighter in recent months as he drew closer to the nomination. All major party nominees are granted enhanced details with counterassault and counter-sniper teams similar to the president.

**Calls for accountability**  
There were calls for accountability across the political spectrum, with congressional committees immediately moving to investigate and issuing subpoenas. Top Republican leaders from both the House and the Senate said Cheatle should step down. Biden, a Democrat, ordered an independent review into security at the rally, and the Secret Service's inspector general opened an investigation. The agency is also reviewing its countersniper team's "preparedness and operations."

On Tuesday, Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson said Cheatle's resignation was "overdue."

"Now we have to pick up the pieces. We have to rebuild the American people's faith and trust in the Secret Service as an agency," Johnson said. □

## U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey is resigning from office following his corruption conviction

By MIKE CATALINI and MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez will resign Aug. 20 following his conviction for taking bribes for corrupt acts including acting as an agent of the Egyptian government, he wrote in a letter to New Jersey's governor obtained by The Associated Press.

Menendez had insisted after the July 16 verdict that he was innocent and on Tuesday in his letter promised to appeal "all the way," including to the Supreme Court, he wrote to fellow Democrat, Gov. Phil Murphy. The roughly monthlong delay in leaving gives his staff time for an orderly transition, Menendez wrote. The date also coincides with a Senate payday. He did not mention the federal conviction in the letter but cited his work helping Superstorm Sandy victims and getting transit funding, among other items and addressed the governor directly, reminding him that he had once praised Menendez before calling for his resignation.

"These successes led you, Governor, to call me the 'Indispensable Senator,'" he wrote.

The Senate received a copy of Menendez's resignation letter, according to Sen. Peter Welch of Vermont, who was presiding in the chamber on Tuesday.

The resignation gives Murphy the ability to appoint someone to the Senate for the remainder of Menendez's term, which expires on Jan. 3. Murphy said in a statement Tuesday that he planned to exercise his power to appoint a temporary senator to fill Menendez's seat. He didn't say who that would be.

The seat was already up for election on Nov. 5. Democrats have nominated U.S. Rep. Andy Kim, who's in a strong position in the Democratic-leaning state. He faces Republican Curtis Bashaw. Menendez, 70, was convicted of charges that he sold the power of his office to three New Jersey businessmen who sought a variety of favors. Prosecutors said



Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., leaves federal court in New York, Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

Associated Press

Menendez used his influence to meddle in three different state and federal criminal investigations to protect his associates. They said he helped one bribe-paying friend get a multimillion-dollar deal with a Qatari investment fund and another keep a contract to provide religious certification for meat bound for Egypt. He was also convicted of taking actions that benefited Egypt's government in exchange for bribes, including providing details on personnel at the U.S. embassy in Cairo, ghostwriting a letter to fellow senators regarding lifting a hold on military aid to Egypt. FBI agents found stacks of gold bars and \$480,000 in cash hidden in Menendez's house.

After his conviction, Menendez denied all of those allegations, saying "I have never been anything but a patriot of my country and for my country. I have never, ever been a foreign agent." But numerous fellow Democrats had urged him to resign, including Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. Murphy had urged the Senate to expel Menendez if he didn't quit. Only 15 senators have ever been expelled. Sen. William Blount, of Tennessee, was ousted in 1797 for treason. The other 14 were expelled in 1861 and 1862 for supporting Confederates during the Civil War.

Menendez faces the possibility of decades in prison. A judge scheduled his sentencing on Oct. 29, a week

before the election. His resignation bookends a career spent in politics that

started with him getting elected to his local school board just a couple of years

after high school graduation. He's held office at every level in his home state and had vowed to run as an independent in November for a fourth term.

The son of Cuban immigrants and an attorney by training, Menendez was a Union City, New Jersey, school board member at age 20 — before graduating from law school — and later became the mayor of the city, where he still has deep connections. His own biography says he wanted to fight corruption early in his political career, testifying against Union City officials and building a reputation as tough. From there, he was elected to the state Assembly, then the state Senate before heading to the U.S. House. □



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## Massachusetts issues tighter restrictions on access to homeless shelter system

By STEVE LeBLANC

Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey unveiled new restrictions on the state's homeless family shelter programs Tuesday. Beginning Aug. 1, families who aren't prioritized for placement in emergency assistance shelters will be eligible to stay at overflow sites for just five days.

Healey said she was tightening restrictions on emergency assistance system eligibility because of the system's "continuing capacity constraints" and the need to protect its financial sustainability in part due to the influx of migrants to the state.

Families will be prioritized for placement in emergency assistance shelters if they have been made homeless by a no-fault eviction or by sudden or unusual circumstances that were beyond their control, such as a flood or fire. They will also be prioritized if at least one family member is a veteran, Healey said.

Families will also continue to be prioritized if they have significant medical needs or newborn children, or are



A passer-by walks through a portion of the Cass Recreational Complex which has been turned into a temporary shelter site for families experiencing homelessness, Jan. 31, 2024, in Boston.

Associated Press

at risk of domestic violence, she said.

Families who aren't prioritized for placement in emergency assistance shelters will be eligible to stay at what the administration refers to as "temporary respite centers" where they can stay for only five days. Such families are currently eligible to stay for 30 days at overflow shelters and can apply to extend stays. As of Aug. 1, families who stay at a temporary

respite center will be required to wait six months or more for placement in the emergency family shelter system.

"We have been saying for months now that the rapid growth of our Emergency Assistance shelter system is not sustainable. Massachusetts is out of shelter space, and we simply cannot afford the current size of this system," Healey said in a statement.

Amy Carnevale, who chairs

the state Republican Party, said Healey "is finally implementing some of the measures we've been advocating."

Earlier this year, Healey announced that families would have to recertify every month to remain in Massachusetts overflow shelter sites, in part by documenting their efforts to find a path out of the system, including by looking for housing or a job.

The change comes after

the state barred homeless families from sleeping overnight at Logan International Airport in Boston.

Families on the emergency assistance shelter waitlist who had been sleeping at Logan have been offered transfers to the state's safety-net system, including a Norfolk site that opened to accommodate up to 140 families.

Beginning June 1, the state also began limiting how long homeless families can stay in shelters to nine months. After that, families are eligible for up to two 90-day extensions.

The latest restrictions are another departure from the state's unique 1986 right-to-shelter law, which guaranteed homeless families shelter without restrictions.

Last year, Healey declared a state of emergency, capping shelter capacity at 7,500 families.

Healey said her administration has focused on getting immigrants work authorizations, English classes, and placed into jobs to give them the tools they need to move into stable housing. □

## Antisemitism runs rampant in Philadelphia schools, Jewish group alleges in civil rights complaint

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM

Associated Press

The Philadelphia school district has failed to protect Jewish students from "a vir-

ulent wave of antisemitism" that swept through classrooms after Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, according to a federal complaint filed

Tuesday. The district, among the largest public school systems in the U.S., has ignored persistent harassment and bullying of Jewish students, some of whom have been forced to drop out, lawyers wrote in the complaint. Some teachers and administrators have spread inflammatory anti-Jewish and anti-Israel messages on social media and even in the classroom without repercussion, the complaint said.

The Anti-Defamation League, a prominent Jewish advocacy group, asked the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights to order the district to issue a statement denouncing antisemitism and to take disciplinary action against teachers and

students who engage in discrimination and harassment. The ADL also wants training for faculty, staff and students and the removal of antisemitic posters, flags and other material on school property. A school district spokesperson declined to comment on an active investigation.

Colleges, universities and high schools nationwide have seen a wave of pro-Palestinian student protests in response to Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza. The war began when Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, taking hostages and killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians. The toll in Gaza recently surpassed 39,000 Palestinians killed, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between

combatants and civilians. Most of the focus has been on protests that rocked college campuses this spring, leading to thousands of arrests. But a recent congressional hearing spotlighted antisemitism in K-12 education, with the leaders of New York City Public Schools, the Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland, and the Berkeley Unified School District in California all vigorously denying they had failed to address hostility toward Jewish people.

Like Philadelphia, New York City and Montgomery County are facing Education Department civil rights investigations into allegations of antisemitism. The ADL filed a complaint against Berkeley in California state court. □



The School District of Philadelphia headquarters are shown in Philadelphia, Tuesday, July 23, 2024.

Associated Press

# Rivals Hamas and Fatah sign a declaration to form a future government as war rages in Gaza

By JACK JEFFERY, TIA GOLDENBERG and HUIZHONG WU  
Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah agreed in Beijing to form a government together, the groups said Tuesday, in the latest attempt at resolving a longstanding rivalry that looms over any potential vision for the rule of Gaza after the war with Israel.

Previous similar declarations have failed, raising doubts about whether the China-sponsored negotiations might lead to reconciliation between Hamas, which has ruled the Gaza Strip for 17 years, and Fatah, the main force in the U.S.-backed Palestinian Authority that administers parts of the occupied West Bank. The two groups issued a joint statement announcing the deal but gave no details on how or when the government would be formed, saying only that it would be done "by agreement among the factions." Both sides said the accord, which provided no guarantees, was only an initial step, and they promised to follow up on previous reconciliation agreements signed in 2011 and 2022.

Israel and the United States rejected the pact. The U.S.



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, center, hosts an event for Mahmoud al-Aloul, left, vice chairman of Fatah, and Mussa Abu Marzuk, a senior member of Hamas, to meet at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, Tuesday, July 23, 2024.

Associated Press

and other Western countries have refused to accept any Palestinian government that includes Hamas unless it expressly recognizes Israel — a factor that has helped wreck past unity attempts, along with the factions' own competition for power.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV announced that the two sides and other, smaller Palestinian factions signed the declaration on "ending division and strengthening Palestinian unity." The agreement

offered only broad outlines for how they would work together.

"There is an opportunity ... but it is not big, because it lacks a specific timetable for implementation," said Hani Al-Masry, an expert on Palestinian reconciliation affairs. The declaration comes at a sensitive time, as the war in Gaza rages into its 10th month and as Israel and Hamas are weighing an internationally backed cease-fire proposal that would wind down the

war and free dozens of Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

One of the thorniest issues is the question of who will run Gaza after the war. The unity efforts are motivated in part by Palestinians' desire to offer a scenario for postwar rule. But Israel vehemently opposes any role for Hamas, which it vowed to destroy after the militants' Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel. It also has rejected U.S. calls for the Palestinian Authority to govern Gaza after the fighting ends,

though it has not presented a cohesive postwar vision of its own. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah has been deeply reluctant to share power with its longtime rival. Hamas won Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006. The following year, amid escalating tensions, Hamas routed forces loyal to Abbas in Gaza. It has ruled the impoverished coastal enclave ever since. During the current war, Hamas officials have said the group does not want to return to ruling Gaza and that it advocates for forming a government of technocrats to be agreed upon by the various Palestinian factions. That government would then prepare for elections in Gaza and the West Bank, with the intention of forming a unified government.

Reacting to the announcement out of China, Israel's foreign minister said no joint governance between Hamas and Fatah in Gaza will take place "because Hamas' rule will be crushed."

U.S. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said, "We made clear we want to see the Palestinian Authority" with a governing role in Gaza, "but no, we do not want to see a role for Hamas," which he said has "blood on its hands." □

## Violence against women at 'epidemic' levels and is a threat on par with terrorism, U.K. police warn

By SYLVIA HUI  
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Violence against women and girls has reached epidemic levels and police are treating it as a threat on the same scale as terrorism, Britain's police chiefs said Tuesday. More than 1 million violent crimes against women and girls were recorded by U.K. police in 2022 to 2023, accounting for one-fifth of all recorded crime, a new report commissioned by the National Police Chiefs' Council and the College of Policing said.

One in every six murders was related to domestic abuse in the same period. At least one in every 12

women each year will be a victim of crimes including sexual offenses, rape, stalking, harassment or online sexual abuse, the report estimated, with the exact number thought to be much higher because of crimes that go unreported.

"Violence against women and girls is a national emergency," Deputy Chief Constable Maggie Blyth said in a statement. "We need to move forward as a society to make change and no longer accept violence against women and girls as inevitable."

Blyth said the data was "staggering" and growing in scale and complex-

ity every year, with such crimes increasing by 37% from 2018 to 2022.

She said one growing concern is the way some online influencers "radicalize" young men and boys into extreme misogyny. Senior officers focusing on violence against women are in discussions with counter-terrorism police on how to tackle the issue, Blyth said. Teachers in the U.K. have expressed worries about the spread of "toxic masculinity" among boys influenced by the misogynistic views of some social media personalities.

Britain's government last year classified violence against women and girls as

a national threat to public safety, and police forces were told to prioritize their response to the issue in

the same way as they do terrorism and serious organized crime. □



A sign stands in front of the New Scotland Yard, the headquarters of the London Metropolitan Police, in London, Monday, Sept. 25, 2023.

Associated Press

# Thousands of migrant kids have reached the Canary Islands alone. Local officials want Spain's help

By RENATA BRITO

Associated Press

**BARCELONA, Spain (AP)**

— The children sometimes won't stop crying. Health workers dealing with migrants arriving on Spain's Canary Islands try to understand if the tears are from illness, injury or, as is often the case, from pure shock. One young Senegalese boy who disembarked recently kept fainting every few minutes, troubling doctors who couldn't determine the cause. Other migrants finally explained: the boy had witnessed both parents die during the arduous boat voyage from West Africa. Their bodies were thrown overboard into the Atlantic Ocean.

"There's no medicine for that," said Inmaculada Mora Peces, a 54-year-old emergency doctor who treats migrants arriving on the island of El Hierro. Mora Peces is among a growing number of people sounding the alarm as the archipelago struggles to deal with thousands of teenagers and children traveling alone to the European Union territory from Senegal, Mali, and other African nations, fleeing pov-



A baby is carried by members of the Red Cross in the port of La Restinga at El Hierro in the Canary Islands on Saturday, June 6, 2024, after being rescued by the Spanish Sea Rescue.

Associated Press

erty, conflict and instability. Yet on Tuesday, Spain's parliament rejected a legislative proposal that would have forced other regions to take responsibility for some of the minors currently stuck on the Canaries in dire conditions. The proposal, which sparked a national debate and political crisis, was rejected on Tuesday evening

with 177 votes against it, 171 votes for it and 1 abstention.

Under Spanish law, the regional authorities where the children arrive are responsible for their guardianship. But the Canary Islands government says it is overwhelmed, with more than 5,500 minors far above its capacity for 2,000.

"It's a humanitarian ca-

tastrophe," said Francisco Candil, a regional government official in charge of social welfare.

Not only do the Canary Islands lack physical space, but the regional government is struggling to hire professionals trained to work with the young migrants on the islands located some 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) from mainland

Spain.

As a result, the children and teenagers languishing on the islands are not receiving the protections they are entitled to under Spanish and European law, including education and healthcare. Spanish media have reported overcrowded centers as well as cases of abuse and mistreatment. On the island of Lanzarote, authorities have set up temporary tents to accommodate the new arrivals.

Candil warned that the situation is only expected to deteriorate as boats keep sailing from the coasts of Senegal, Mauritania and the Western Sahara to the Spanish islands just 100 kilometers (60 miles) from Africa's western coast.

Nearly 20,000 men, women and children have reached the Canaries so far this year, a 160% increase from 2023. And that's even before the high season for migrant crossings begins in the fall, Candil added.

Earlier this year, the EU signed a 210 million euro deal with Mauritania to stop smugglers from launching boats for Spain. But the deal has had little effect on migrant arrivals for now. □

## Mudslides in Ethiopia have killed at least 229. It's not clear how many people are still missing

By AMANUEL GEBREMEDHIN  
BIRHANE

Associated Press

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia**

(AP) — Mudslides triggered by heavy rain in a remote part of Ethiopia have killed at least 229 people, includ-

ing many who tried to rescue survivors, local authorities said Tuesday, in what the prime minister called a "terrible loss." Young children and pregnant women were among the victims in Kencho Shacha Gozdi district of southern Ethiopia, said Dagmawi Ayele, a local administrator, adding that at least five people have been pulled out alive. The death toll rose sharply from the initial one of 55 late Monday. Search operations continued in the area, said Kassahun Abayneh, head of the communications office in Gofa Zone, the administrative area where the mudslides occurred.

Ethiopia's ruling party in a

statement said it felt sorrow over the disaster. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said in a statement on Facebook that he was "deeply saddened by this terrible loss." The federal disaster prevention task force has been deployed to assist in search and rescue efforts, Abiy's statement said.

It was not immediately clear how many people were still unaccounted for. Many victims were buried on Monday as rescue workers searched the steep terrain for survivors of another mudslide the previous day. Markos Melese, director of the disaster response agency in Gofa Zone, said many rescuers remained missing. "There are children who

are hugging corpses, having lost their entire family, including mother, father, brother and sister," he said. Some women wailed as rescuers attempted to dig through the thick mud with shovels.

Landslides are common during Ethiopia's rainy season, which started in July and is expected to last until mid-September.

Deadly mudslides often occur in the wider East African region, from Uganda's mountainous east to central Kenya's highlands. In April, at least 45 people were killed in Kenya's Rift Valley region when flash floods and a landslide swept through houses and cut off a major road. □



In this handout photo released by Gofa Zone Government Communication Affairs Department, hundreds of people gather at the site of a mudslide in the Kencho Shacha Gozdi district, Gofa Zone, southern Ethiopia, Monday, July 22, 2024.

Associated Press



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## A guide for the perfect picture

## Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're taking a stroll in the city center, and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Oranjestad is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad.

### "I LOVE ARUBA"

Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a



favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park, in front of Talk of the Town Hotel. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way!

### The sitting bull

Yes, you read that right; right in the heart of the city center, in front of the Crystal Casino in the Renaissance Mall, there is a black bull sit-

ting on a bench, waiting for you to take a picture with it. Ok, so it's not a real bull, but "I took a picture with a sitting bull" sounds like a great conversation opener.

See if you can also spot the cow on the roof!

### Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back entrance!



Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

### Renaissance Dock

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is



## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

**The three levels of honor are as follows:**

Distinguished Visitor (10>years con-

secutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

### The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors  
Mr. Daniel & Mrs. Rochelle Gelman from Maple Shade New Jersey, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked

them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's restaurants.
- "Employees at The Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



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\* Every bundle offers a 5GB daily data allowance based on our Fair Use Policy.  
International Minutes and SMS includes calls and text to other providers and the following countries: Bonaire, Canada, Colombia, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, The Netherlands, Panama, USA.



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SETAR, the island's premier Telecom provider, is a pioneer in shaping connectivity in Aruba. SETAR has become indispensable to Aruba's vibrant tech landscape by delivering lightning-fast networks to local communities and visitors. The island is transforming with SETAR's ambitious project to convert the entire island to fiber, revolutionizing how Aruba stays connected, and marking a significant leap in innovation and firmly establishing Aruba as one of the most technologically advanced islands in the Caribbean.

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### Tourist SIM

Paradise awaits in Aruba, and SETAR, is here to enhance your tropical adventure with our exclusive

Tourist Bundles! Stay connected, share the magic, and make the most of your Aruban escape with seamless communication.

Tourist Bundles to Suit Your Journey:

#### Tourist Bundles - 7 Days (35GB)

- UNLIMITED Data [5GB DAILY]
- 200 Minutes on-net to Fixed and Mobile
- 30 Minutes to other providers and International
- 50 SMS Local and International
- Valid for 7 Days
- For only \$30

#### Tourist Bundles - 14 Days (70GB)

- UNLIMITED Data [5GB DAILY]
- 300 Minutes on-net to Fixed and Mobile
- 60 Minutes to other providers and International
- 50 SMS Local and International
- Valid for 14 Days
- For only \$50

When purchasing the bundle for the first time at one of our stores, the Tourist SIM card is FREE and is tailored for visitors staying a few weeks in Aruba.

For visitors staying longer on the island, SETAR offers a flexible Prepaid option that allows you to buy credit conveniently at any Teleshop, gas station, minimarket, or supermarket. This prepaid credit

provides you the freedom to call anytime or choose from the different Prepaid bundles SETAR offers: Data Bundles: Stay connected with high-speed Internet and choose from various data options to suit your needs.

One Bundle: Enjoy the convenience of bundled SMS, Voice, and Data in one package.

SETAR ensures you have the best communication experience during your time in Aruba.

#### Makes your Workcation in Paradise Effortless

Are you planning a trip to Aruba that blends business with leisure, or perhaps seeking a remote work setup? Whether you're coming to Aruba for business or to embrace a 'workcation,' SETAR has tailored solutions to ensure seamless and uninterrupted connectivity during your stay.

Stay productive while enjoying the beauty of Aruba. SETAR designed flexible plans and reliable services to cater to your needs, providing you with the connectivity required for work and play. Go to the TeleKiosk in the Arrival Hall of Aruba's Airport and ask for the Prepaid Wireless Home Internet for seamless connectivity. Enjoy the fastest Internet speeds with our Wireless Home Internet Prepaid

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#### 1 Day Plan:

- 10GB Data
- Valid for 1 Day or upon depletion of your bundle
- \$5.55

#### 1 Week Plan:

- 50GB Data
- Valid for 7 Days or upon depletion of your bundle
- \$20

#### 30 Days Plan:

- 75GB Data
- Valid for 30 Days or upon depletion of your bundle
- \$55.50

Imagine strolling along the Aruban beaches after a productive workday or unwinding with a picturesque sunset as your backdrop to a successful day's work. Experience the ideal blend of work and relaxation in Aruba, supported by SETAR's seamless connectivity. Let us make your stay in Aruba an experience like no other. □

## Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we

strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Sharon and Burton Sorensen from Port Saint Lucie, Florida, USA (retirees originally from Maryland).

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to us is celebrating our wedding anniversary every year. In July 1997 while celebrating our 1st wedding anniversary we purchased a unit at the Divi Aruba Phoenix before it was open. We selected this July week to return for this celebration every year. For well over 20+ years we have spent 2-3 weeks a year enjoying the hospitality of Aruba with fun, sun and friends."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

## 2,000,000 SUMMER POINT GIVEAWAY – 20 WINNERS DAILY

## WILDER Wednesday

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## THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins

Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings &amp; More

The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market | M8 Boutique

Fusion - Piano &amp; Wine Bar | Shalom Body &amp; Soul Spa

Magnet Perfume Jewelry &amp; Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard

Shalom Hair &amp; Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts

Coming Soon: Moments & Memories Jewelry,  
Treasure Cove, and El Patio Tacos & Tequila

## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Barcelo Aruba- All Inclusive!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests



who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10+ years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Goodwill Ambassador (20+ years consecutively visiting Aruba)  
Emerald Ambassador (35+ years consecutively visiting Aruba)

## The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors  
Mr. Kurt & Mr. Nicholas Richter from Hamilton New Jersey, United States.

## Goodwill Ambassador

Mrs. Melina Richter from Hamilton New Jersey, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Barcelo Aruba- All Inclusive bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with



gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

## The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's beach.
- Aruba's restaurants.
- "I love me Aruba family"
- "The staff at Barcelo treat me

well and take care of me"

- "I basically grew up here"
- Aruba's weather
- "The relationship we have built with our Aruba family"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

## Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that

## swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries,

known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamento.

## Candelchi, Squirrelfish, Holocentrus adscensionis:

Candelchi actually refers to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as Holocentrus adscensionis.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the

different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

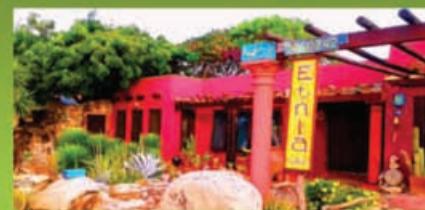
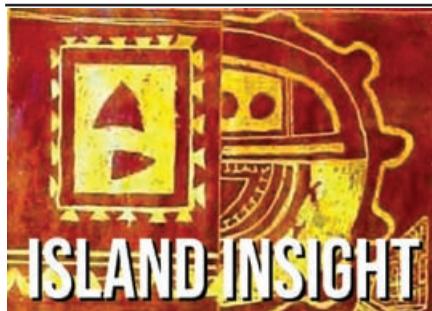
In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occa-

sionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

## In Aruba:

Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!

Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



## Caribbean Blue Crab

Etnia Nativa is a unique native gem where education is combined with entertainment, sharing interactive experiences with an exclusive few. An unparalleled private opportunity to tour a beautiful property made with reused materials collected by the owner, an unrivaled columnist and island cultural expert. Book your visit and dive deep into the navel of Aruba. From that educational perspective, in this new episode we share a little about Aruba's blue crab, *Cardisoma guanhumi*, especially found in mangrove areas, and how, after sundown, they are very active.

The blue crab is a semi-terrestrial species that lives in dried-up sea inlets and hypersaline tidal flats called "apicuns," which are less flooded mangrove areas scarcely covered by vegetation. Although the habitat of *C. guanhumi* is interdependent on the mangrove ecosystem, they have adapted to live on mud flats and in coconut plantations that had risen during colonial times and were approximately close to the sea! The local population of the Blue Crab has been diminishing and has been highly affected by overhunting, uncontrolled demographic growth, and the loss and contamination of their traditional habitat. We need to pay attention in order to maintain the population of *C. guanhumi* at sizes that guarantee its conservation. Be aware of special blue crab road crossing areas on the highway, like the one near Pos Chiquito and Santo Largo salt ponds. A bright yellow "Land Crab Crossing" road sign on the road is to remind drivers to watch out and pay attention during seasonal crossings.

Many Caribbean native populations know the crab *C. guanhumi* as \*Sirik (a word of Arawak origin), and it is a very important part of their crustacean diet. Some Arubans love to eat the blue crab, but others kept them in cages for a few weeks to feed them with bread to clean up their system since they claimed they were \*shiwati, or poisonous, if you did not follow this cleaning process. A time ago, we organized crab-hunting nights during the full moon. You must have the skills to grab one since they could bite or grip your fingers hard with their pincers, which was very painful. You had to hold its body with your foot without breaking or damaging its carapace. Then hold the two pincer claws tight in order to put them in a potato-like netted bag. They were chopped in half, cleaned up with a scrubbing brush, and boiled in a big ceramic



pot filled with basil leaves. But those were different times, and there were a large number of blue crabs. Today, we must take care of them!

\*Sirik was a name that also corresponds to the Pleiades constellation since its morning appearance coincides with the crustacean spawning season, the rainy season, and the beginning of the Caribbean year. Caribbean natives also associated the Pleiades with the frog (explained in our episode 184), a symbol of rain and fertility. The reproductive cycle of the *C. guanhumi* "blue crab" is closely linked to seasonal weather patterns and the lunar phase. The rains initiate their migrations. When this occurs, blue crabs begin to gain weight as more food is consumed and gathered for the first few weeks of the migratory period. Males mate with mature females during this time. Fertilization is internal, and throughout July and August, most females carry the eggs externally. After

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approximately 2 weeks, the eggs will hatch and must be released into saltwater for the larvae to survive. The typical development period from hatching to the first crab stage takes approximately 42 days under laboratory conditions; however, this time may be much shorter in the wild.

The diet of this crab consists of decomposed trees, insects, and the remains of dead animals. It is a slow-growing species compared to most other crabs. The blue crab generally seals the exit to its burrow using mud, 6–10 days before it molts, to protect itself from predators since it is when they are most vulnerable because their shell has not yet hardened and their color varies from dark blue to brown or pale grey. They may grow to 15 centimeters (6 in) in carapace width and weigh over 500 grams.

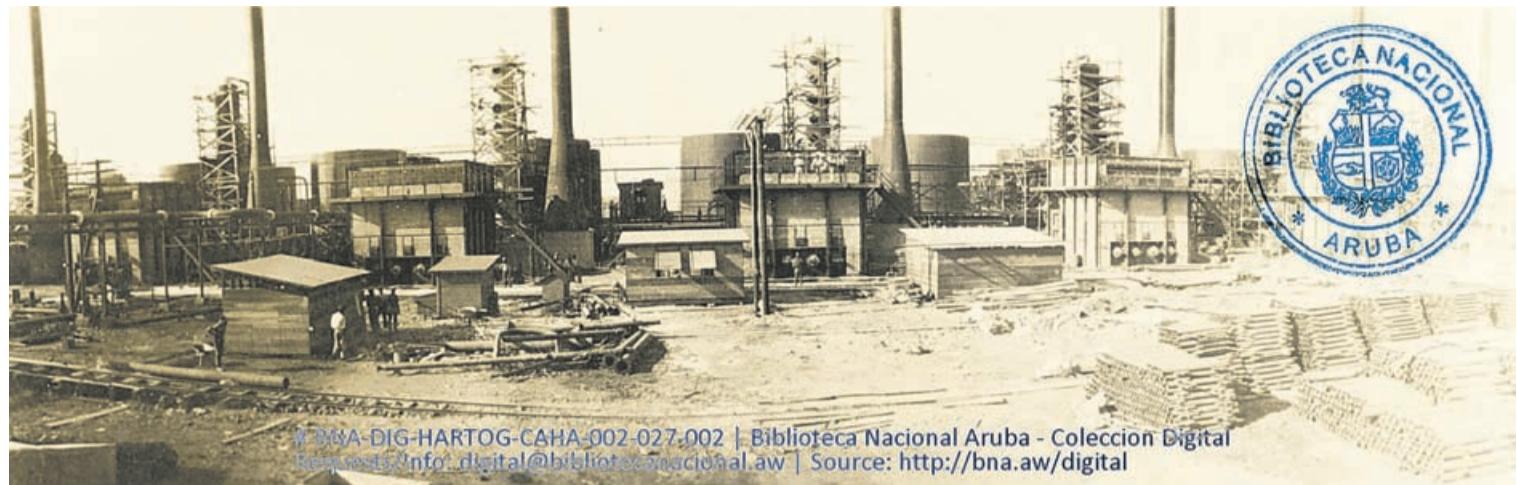
If you liked our native stories and are interested in learning the true identity of Aruba, a visit to Etnia Nativa would be a fantastic choice. It has been a trendsetter since 1994, as a co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others. Every week, this newspaper continues to share its valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through learning real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls. Book your visit: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com



## Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article Historia di Literatura Arubano: E Bida Cultural (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with



only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

### Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much

trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piternella, as well as migrant authors José

Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamento,

but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

### The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: Historia di Literatura Arubano: E Bida Cultural by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



## CROSSWORD

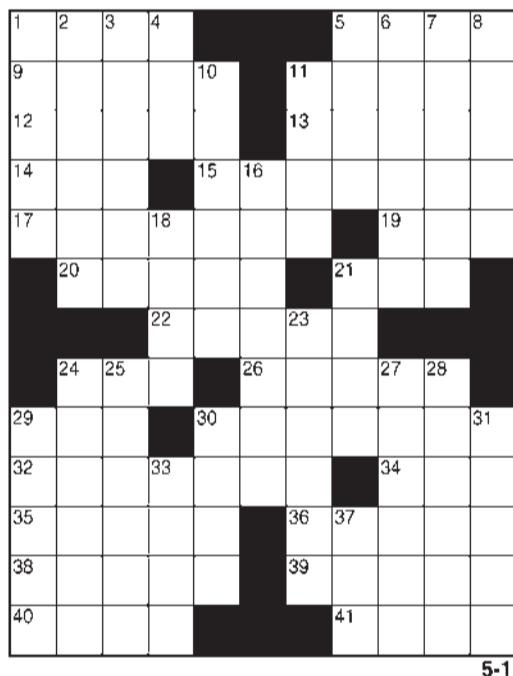
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Weary word 38 Meager
  - 5 Road division 39 Tempest
  - 9 Authority 40 Mailed
  - 11 Smile upon 41 Historic times
  - 12 Gushes forth
  - 13 "West Side Story" role
  - 14 Simile center
  - 15 Distress calls
  - 17 Ribbon-strewn staff
  - 19 Golf need
  - 20 Cold forecast
  - 21 Airport sight
  - 22 Pueblo material
  - 24 Way off
  - 26 Elizabethan collars
  - 29 Tattoo setting
  - 30 Fashionable London area
  - 32 Herb-flavored German punch
  - 34 Corp. bigwig
  - 35 Poker payments
  - 36 Stylishly quaint



Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Tea-growing region
  - 2 Washes against, as the shore
  - 3 Ensign's answer
  - 4 Compass pt.
  - 5 Hit the runway
  - 6 Take wing
  - 7 Procrastinator's words
  - 8 Make blank
  - 10 Donny or Marie
  - 11 Dunaway of "Bonnie and Clyde"
  - 16 Campaign loser
  - 18 Dessert fruit
  - 21 Probst of "Survivor"
  - 23 Boutique patrons
  - 24 Tours setting
  - 25 "The Joy Luck Club" author
  - 27 Element
  - 28 Rugged range
  - 29 Accumulate
  - 30 Rainbow maker
  - 31 Hotel units
  - 33 Departed
  - 37 Summer in Paris



A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-1

## CRYPTOQUOTE

Q G Z    P J    K M L    Q X R K M    X S

L U D L E K G K P X R ,    K M L    Q X R K M

X S    F P J M L J ,    K M L    Q X R K M    X S

M X D L . — L Q P W Z    V O X R K L  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I HAVE GREAT FAITH  
IN FOOLS — SELF-CONFIDENCE, MY FRIENDS  
CALL IT. — EDGAR ALLAN POE

## Cruise ship Schedule: July 01 - July 30 2024

|     |    |                       | ARR   | DEPT  | BERTH |
|-----|----|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| THU | 04 | CELEBRITY BEYOND      | 08.00 | 21.00 | C 1   |
| TUE | 09 | ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS | 08.00 | 20.00 | B 1   |
|     |    | CARNIVAL HORIZON      | 09.00 | 22.00 | C 1   |
| WED | 10 | RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS  | 09.00 | 21.00 | C 1   |
| TUE | 16 | CARNIVAL CELEBRATION  | 08.00 | 22.00 | C 1   |
|     |    | CARNIVAL VISTA        | 13.00 | 23.00 | I 1   |
| WED | 17 | CELEBRITY BEYOND      | 08.00 | 21.00 | C 1   |
| TUE | 23 | CARNIVAL HORIZON      | 09.00 | 22.00 | C 1   |
| TUE | 30 | CELEBRITY BEYOND      | 08.00 | 21.00 | C 1   |

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

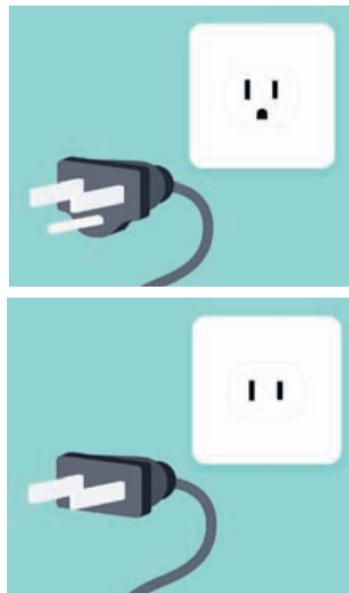
Supermarket hours



(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Electrical power



### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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 \$6000  
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 3685 m2 property land  
 Price :\$1.6 Million American  
 Dollar  
 Call:011-297-630-1307  
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com

**Casa del Mar**  
 BEACH RESORT  
**Casa del Mar Sales Inventory Week 29**

**WEEK 28**  
 Ambassador Unit (one bedroom)  
 Price range:\$3,600.00 - \$4,500.00  
 Presidential suites (two bedrooms)  
 Price range:\$9,000.00-\$18,000.00

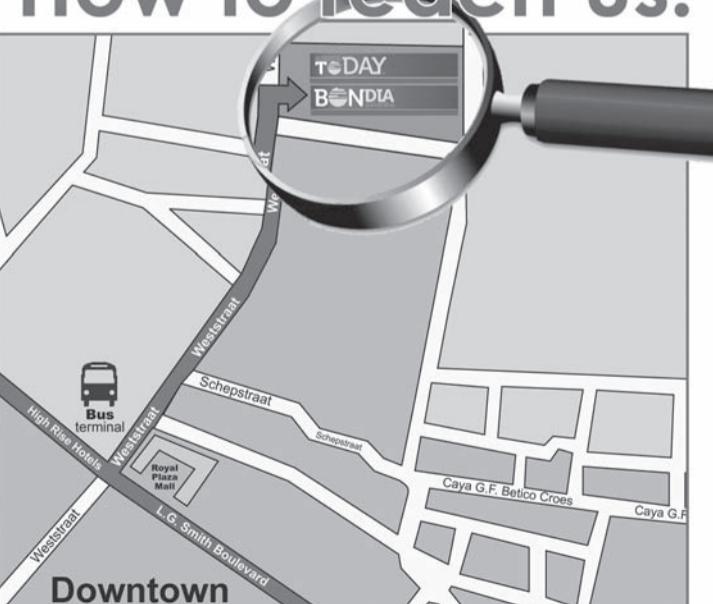
**WEEK 29**  
 Ambassador unit (one bedroom)  
 Price range:\$3,000.00 - \$4,500.00  
 Presidential suites (two bedrooms)  
 Price range: \$8,760.00

**WEEK 30**  
 Ambassador unit (one bedroom)  
 Price range:\$3,700.00 - \$4,500.00  
 Presidential suites (two bedrooms)  
 Price range:\$7,000.00 - \$8,760.00

**FOR MORE INFO CALL:**  
**+297-582-700 Ext. 614**  
**OR EMAIL:**  
**sales@casadelmararuba.com**

**TODAY** **BONDIA**

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 Phone # 011-297-6301307  
 johnnypaesch@gmail.com



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### Editors

Pilar Flores  
 Richard Brooks  
 Angenette Figuereo

### Sales

Mark Gomes  
 Sulaika Croes

### Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

### Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

### Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22  
 T: 582-7800  
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## Dan Aykroyd revisits the Blues Brothers' remarkable legacy in new Audible Original

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The shades are on, the skinny tie is knotted and the fedora is perched just so — Dan Aykroyd is ready to look back.

The actor-comedian is revving up the Bluesmobile to reminisce about the years he teamed up with John Belushi as the Blues Brothers, taking Hollywood and the Billboard charts by storm.

Aykroyd writes and narrates the Audible Original "Blues Brothers: The Arc of Gratitude," which starts with him meeting Belushi one freezing night in Toronto in 1973 and takes us to today, with gigs still lining up. The documentary drops Thursday.

"It's cool to keep doing it after 40-some years," Aykroyd says from his summer home in Canada. "It's because it's based on the honesty of African American culture and the music and two white guys who just loved it so much that we had to emulate it and do it in this way."

The documentary traces their appearances on "SNL" and their breakthrough album "Briefcase Full of Blues" to the 1980 movie and its hit soundtrack, the death of Belushi and Aykroyd's commitment to carry on the tradition with a new partner Belushi's brother, Jim with the creation of House of Blues nightclubs and the "Blues Brothers 2000"



Dan Aykroyd poses for a photo in Los Angeles on Dec. 4, 2010.

movie sequel. The two-hour lookback includes interviews with Jim Belushi, band leader Paul Shaffer, singer Curtis Salgado, director John Landis, drummer Steve Jordan, widow Judy Belushi Pisano, saxophonist Lou Marini and more, as well as a previously unheard interview with John Belushi himself.

"I provided the structural skeleton to a lot of really strong organic material there," says Aykroyd. "I think it really brought back the time vividly."

Listeners will learn that "SNL" creator and producer Lorne Michaels wasn't a fan of the

fictional brothers' act and that their rise was something of a disruption for record labels and movie studios. Key moments came when Willie Nelson and then Steve Martin invited them as opening acts. The concept was admittedly a little odd: Two white comedians fronting a first-rate blues band with the express purpose of celebrating a musical form that had grown dusty. The Blues Brothers Aykroyd's Elwood and Belushi's "Joliet" Jake wore black suits and black string ties inspired by comedian Lenny Bruce and snap-brim fedora hats and shades borrowed from the

album cover of John Lee Hooker's "House of the Blues." Aykroyd says in the audio documentary that the pair saw an opportunity for something fresh, fun and classic "in that tiny orbital skip of an electron during the seconds between disco and New Wave." After successful turns on "SNL," first as a warm-up act then as performers they released an album "Briefcase Full of Blues" with the hit cover "Soul Man" and then a cult movie as the pair lead police, some Nazis and a furious country act on spectacular chases through Illinois to raise \$5,000 to save their childhood home. It had

Associated Press

cameos by Carrie Fisher, Chaka Khan, Twiggy, Joe Walsh, Paul Reubens and Frank Oz. Listeners will learn that one of the most memorable lines was a collaboration. Aykroyd wrote "It's 106 miles to Chicago. We've got a full tank of gas, half a pack of cigarettes." Landis added: "It's dark and we're wearing sunglasses. Hit it."

The movie was also filled to the brim with blues stars like Donald "Duck" Dunn, Steve Cropper, Matt Murphy and performances by Aretha Franklin, James Brown and Ray Charles, who were struggling through fallow periods. "You may say appropriation. We did, yes, but we preserved as well," says Aykroyd. "That is what we were always about.

We wanted, forever on film, to show you what these artists could do and what they sounded like."

But exhibitors in the South — particularly Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida and Georgia — balked. "The consensus was, by these guys, 'This is a Black movie and no white people would see it,'" Landis recalls. "I remember going, 'It has Princess Leia in it!'" Ultimately, the Blues Brothers — the films, records, skits and music venues — helped fill jukeboxes across the globe with classics and revived the careers of Franklin, Brown and Charles, creating a new love for the blues. □

## Michigan's accused sign-stealing ex-staffer Connor Stalions is subject of upcoming show on Netflix



Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh, front left, watches against Rutgers as analytics assistant Connor Stalions, right, looks on during an NCAA college football game in Ann Arbor, Mich., Sept. 23, 2023.

Associated Press

**ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)** — Connor Stalions is set to share his side of the story from an alleged sign-stealing scheme within Michigan's football team before the Wolverines went on to win the national championship. Netflix announced Monday that the fourth season of "Untold" will include "Sign Stealer," on Aug. 27, when Stalions breaks his silence on the scandal that shook college football.

Stalions was on coach Jim Harbaugh's staff until resigning in November, accused of purchasing tickets to scout future opponents and sending people to those games to digitally record teams signaling in their plays.

In-person scouting is banned by the NCAA, which has been investigating Michigan's system to determine how organized it was

and who knew about it. Records from other Big Ten schools show Stalions bought tickets to numerous games involving future opponents.

He was initially placed on leave by the school and later resigned.

NCAA President Charlie Baker has said the Wolverines won the national championship "fair and square" earlier this year.

The Big Ten Conference banned Harbaugh from coaching the final three games of the regular season for leading a program that violated the conference's sportsmanship policy.

Harbaugh, who left the school to lead the Los Angeles Chargers, has denied any knowledge of an improper scouting scheme in his program. □

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## Analysis: Xander Schauffele is now in the conversation with Scheffler for best year in golf

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

TROON, Scotland (AP) — Xander Schauffele is the British Open champion, and the PGA Tour must be thrilled.

The FedEx Cup is as meaningful as ever, a three-tournament stretch in August that could go a long way toward deciding who gets the players' vote for PGA Tour player of the year.

Schauffele or Masters champion Scottie Scheffler?

Schauffele is only the ninth player in the last 40 years to win two majors in the same year (Tiger Woods did it four times), having won a thriller at Valhalla to claim the PGA Championship in May.

Since the Jack Nicklaus Award began in 1990, only one of those players was not voted player of the year. That was Nick Faldo, and there was a reason he wasn't a PGA Tour member, playing only seven tour-sanctioned events that year.

But do two majors Schauffele's only two wins this year trump the astonishing season that Scheffler has produced?

It's easy to look at Sunday at Royal Troon when Schauffele played what he called "the best round of my life." In a wind that made the rough look thicker, the pot bunkers deeper



Xander Schauffele of the United States touches the Claret Jug trophy during a press conference after winning the British Open Golf Championships at Royal Troon golf club in Troon, Scotland, Sunday, July 21, 2024.

Associated Press

and the gorse bushes even more prickly, Schauffele played bogey-free for a 65 in which he missed only two greens, none on the back nine.

The lasting images of Scheffler? Turning a 6-foot par putt into a three-putt double bogey on the ninth hole that effectively knocked him from contention, and then topping a tee shot on 18 that was swallowed up by thick grass just 176 yards off the tee.

But that would be to forget what Scheffler has done this year, not just last week. He won the Masters from

ahead and The Players Championship from behind, coming back from a neck injury that nearly caused him to withdraw on Friday and erasing a five-shot deficit on Sunday.

His other four victories were all at signature events, with the \$20 million purses and the strongest fields Bay Hill and Harbour Town, the Memorial and the Travelers.

The six wins are the most in a season since Tom Watson in 1980, and the most before the calendar turned to July since Arnold Palmer in 1962.

That's not easily over-

looked, particularly since Scheffler has had only two finishes out of the top 10 a tie for 17th at The American Express in the California desert and a tie for 41st in the U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2.

But it's 2-1 in the majors, and Schauffele has history on his side with players historically leaning toward the majors.

Some years it was an easy choice, whether it was Nick Price in 1994 or Rory McIlroy in 2014.

Players in 1998 preferred Mark O'Meara winning the Masters and British Open

over David Duval winning a tournament in each season winter, spring, summer and fall along with the money list when the PGA Tour used to hand out an award for that.

They chose Padraig Harrington in 2008 over Vijay Singh, who won a World Golf Championship, two playoff events and the FedEx Cup.

There is also history on Scheffler's side. He was chosen last year over Jon Rahm, the Masters champion who had four wins to only two by Scheffler. The difference was Scheffler being so statistically powerful that he won the Vardon Trophy for the lowest scoring average. It took him until July to have a result worse than 12th.

Schauffele was the only player to finish in the top 10 in all four majors. Scheffler had three top 10s in the four biggest events, and the PGA Championship probably should have an asterisk because of the week was marked by Scheffler getting arrested and booked into jail.

Scheffler is virtually assured of becoming the first player since Woods in 2009 to start the year at No. 1 in the world and stay there until the end of December.

Schauffele isn't getting enough credit for making the cut in 52 consecutive PGA Tour events. □

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## 49ers have no intention of dealing Brandon Aiyuk despite his trade request

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)

— The San Francisco 49ers have no intention of granting star receiver Brandon Aiyuk his trade request and remain committed to getting a long-term extension done with one of their most important offensive players.

General manager John Lynch said there are no absolutes but that the 49ers "expect Brandon to be an integral part of our team like he has been and are excited about that."

The 49ers arrived at training camp on Tuesday, a day before their first practice of the summer and Lynch said he expected Aiyuk to report despite skipping the entire off-season program, including a mandatory minicamp.

Aiyuk would have been subject to potential fines if he didn't show up but he still could try to follow the path of teammate Deebo Samuel, who skipped the first four training camp practices in 2022 while negotiating for a long-term extension.

Lynch said he expects every player to practice but remains focused on reaching a long-term deal with Aiyuk.

"We've had great commu-



San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk, top, catches a pass against Detroit Lions cornerback Kindle Vildor (29) during the second half of the NFC Championship NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024.

Associated Press

nication," Lynch said. "We started this really early. We made it a priority to try to get it done. We've had excellent communication throughout. I really don't want to characterize it. We haven't been able to do that's a shame. But Brandon's a big part of our team, and we expect that he will be this year."

The Niners have done a good job rewarding their

homegrown stars, handing out megadeals the past four offseasons to George Kittle, Fred Warner, Samuel and Nick Bosa.

While Samuel missed only a handful of practices in 2022, Bosa held out until a few days before the season opener last season.

Both players said the long contract disputes weighed on them and impacted their

performance during those seasons. The Niners hope that isn't the case with Aiyuk. "NFL seasons are real hard. So any time you don't really get to prepare the right way in training camp, it's a challenge for all those players," coach Kyle Shanahan said. "But tons of players have gone through it. Some have bigger challenges than others. Each one's different. ... So

both of those guys have their individual experiences with it. It never helps. But that's something that's not a new thing, something you have to deal with."

"Contract (negotiations) are like braces," Kittle said. "They suck the entire time and then once you get them off, you forget that you ever had them. But this time, in the case of the contract, you get a big bag of money. ... I just try to tell him, it's a horrible process. I hated the entire process when I was going through it. Bosa's last year was awful. He didn't get it done until the first week of the season. It's not fun."

Aiyuk is currently under the fifth-year option worth about \$14.1 million this season. Eight receivers before Aiyuk had signed contracts worth at least \$70 million already this offseason with Justin Jefferson's four-year, \$140 million extension with Minnesota setting the top of the market. Aiyuk was a key part of San Francisco's offense last season as he formed a great connection with Purdy. Aiyuk had 75 catches and a career-high 1,375 yards last season with seven touchdowns as he earned second-team All-Pro honors.□



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi waves as he walks off the field after being honored for his 45 career trophies before an MLS soccer match against the Chicago Fire, Saturday, July 20, 2024, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

## Inter Miami stars Lionel Messi and Luis Suárez to miss MLS All-Star Game

MIAMI (AP) — Inter Miami star Lionel Messi won't play in the MLS All-Star Game while nursing an ankle injury.

The 37-year-old Messi left the July 14 Copa America final win over Colombia with a right ankle injury. His teammate, Luis Suárez, also won't play in the game Wednesday in Columbus, Ohio, with what the team described as "knee discomfort."

Both were listed among the unavailable players by the league on Monday.

Messi, an eight-time Ballon d'Or winner from Argentina, has missed Miami's wins over Toronto FC and the Chicago Fire. The team said both players' status for Saturday's Leagues Cup opening match at home against Mexican club Puebla "will be assessed based on their daily recovery process." The MLS All-Star Game pits

top players from league clubs against players from Mexico's Liga MX.

Miami teammates Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba will play Wednesday night. Real Salt Lake forward Christian Arango will also miss the All-Star Game while serving a four-game suspension from Major League Soccer for violating the league's anti-harassment policy. Arango leads MLS with 17 goals and 11 assists.□